

to be upheld as a breeding record for that State. This explanation is here made in order that the facts in this case may be available to workers in Michigan ornithology. By the elimination of this record the eastern known limits of the breeding range of *Numenius americanus americanus* become restricted to southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois.—HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *Washington, D. C.*

The Rough-legged Hawk (*Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis*) at Washington, D. C.—The Rough-legged Hawk is of sufficient rarity in the District of Columbia to warrant placing on record a specimen which came into my possession on January 1, 1918. The bird, wounded and unable to fly, was picked up by some boys in the open country north of Woodridge, close to the eastern line of the District. Previous records from this region are as follows:¹

1859 — one.

December 29, 1879 — one seen by H. W. Henshaw.

1880 (winter) — one.

December 23, 1882 — specimen in U. S. Nat. Mus.

March 17, 1888 — Sandy Spring, Maryland; specimen.²

March 30, 1888 — one seen by Chas. W. Richmond.

January 1, 1895 — one seen on Potomac flats by E. A. Preble.—

ARTHUR H. HOWELL, *Washington, D. C.*

Occurrence of Goshawks (*Astur a. atricapillus*) and Saw-whet Owl (*Cryptoglaux acadica*) in the Vicinity of Washington, D. C.—

It is interesting to note that the Goshawk in the extended winter migrations of 1916 and 1917 reached the vicinity of Washington, D. C. Mr. T. A. Davis secured a fine adult at the Bureau of Animal Industry farm near Beltsville, Maryland, December 20, 1917. It was captured in a trap set beside a large rooster it had killed.

Mr. Davis states that he shot two others of this species at the same locality September 1 and 2, 1916. The only previous record in this vicinity was of an adult female killed at Sandy Spring, Maryland, December 27, 1887.

A female Saw-whet Owl (*Cryptoglaux acadica*) taken in a grove of small pines at Sandy Spring, Maryland, November 30, 1916, was one of the northern species which drifted south in the autumn of 1916.—A. K. FISHER, *Washington, D. C.*

Large Flight of Great Horned Owls and Goshawks at Hadlyme, Connecticut.—Under date of December 29, Mr. Edward H. Forbush of Massachusetts wrote me that early in November, he had learned from Canada that probably because of the great dearth of rabbits in the north a great flight of Horned Owls and Goshawks was coming south.

¹ Cf. Cooke, *Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington*, XXI, 1908, p. 116.

² Fisher, *Hawks and Owls of the U. S.*, Bull. 3, Div. Orn. & Mamm., 1893, p. 91.

In November and December many Goshawks appeared at Hadlyme, also many Great Horned Owls; the latter being very commonly heard and seen until into February. The game keeper of a pheasant farm at Hadlyme trapped and killed during the fall and winter up to March 10: 91 Great-Horned Owls; 25 Barred Owls; 15 Screech Owls; 9 Long-eared Owls; and 84 Goshawks, and from September 1916, to March 10, 1918, 74 Red Shouldered Hawks; 60 Cooper's and Pigeon Hawks; and 35 Sharp-shinned and Sparrow Hawks.

The keeper placed eight Horned Owls in a wired enclosure and kept them for some time during the month of January until they began killing and eating each other. This was kept up until only two remained. They were well fed all of the time they were in captivity on dead pheasants killed by other hawks and owls, and Starlings were also shot for them.

The Great Horned Owl has been fast nearing extermination in Connecticut as a permanent resident.—ARTHUR W. BROCKWAY, *Hadlyme, Conn.*

Megaceryle vs. Streptoceryle.—In a paper on the Classification of the Kingfishers (Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., 1912), the writer showed that the range of variation in size, form and coloration in the genus *Ceryle*, as commonly recognized, is so great that the two subgenera of the A. O. U. Check-List (1910), *Megaceryle* and *Chloroceryle*, should unquestionably be given generic rank. Working independently, Mr. Ridgway (Bds. N. & M. Amer., VI, 1914, p. 407), treated not only these two groups as full genera but gave equal recognition to *Streptoceryle*, a segregate of *Megaceryle*. The former includes the two American species *M. alcyon* and *M. torquata* and the African *M. maxima*, while *Megaceryle* is restricted to the two closely allied Asiatic species *M. lugubris* and *M. guttulata*.

Mr. Ridgway separates *Streptoceryle* and *Megaceryle* on account of supposed differences in the form of the bill, relative length of tarsus and inner toe, and coloration. Regarding the character of the feet, I can find no difference whatever, the relative length of the tarsus and toes being remarkably uniform in all the species of the group. So far as general coloration is concerned, the Asiatic species are not essentially different from the African *M. maxima* which connects the former with the American species. In fact, in the markings of the primaries the Old World species are in close agreement with each other, while those of the New World are decidedly different. The coloration of all the forms of *Megaceryle (sensu lato)* may be considered of one diversified type as opposed to the different styles of color or pattern seen in *Chloroceryle* and *Ceryle*.

There remains as distinctive of *Streptoceryle* only the form of the bill. This is somewhat more slender, with straighter culmen, the tip of the maxilla more tapering and acute, and the gonys more strongly upcurved. In view of the close resemblance in all other points of structure and the essential agreement in size and coloration, I believe that *Streptoceryle* may profitably be relegated to synonymy. It is significant that Bonaparte in proposing *Streptoceryle* restricted it to the two American species,